School Sustainability Review – Morna Heights Elementary School
Oct. 2019
The Anglophone South District Education Council (DEC) will host Public Consultations as per Provincial Policy 409 Multi-Year School Infrastructure Planning to study the sustainability of Morna Heights School.

Under Policy 409, the DEC will be holding two public information sessions at the school. The initial meeting will be to deliver the proposal to the public and to allow the DEC and staff to explain the process involved in a Policy 409 review and be available to answer questions about the process.

A second meeting will be scheduled in November to allow the public an opportunity to ask questions about the proposal, voice their concerns and provide feedback to the review.

The first meeting for Morna Heights School is scheduled for Thursday, October 10 at 6:30 pm at Morna Heights School.

Everyone is welcome to attend and encouraged to do so. Throughout this process, written feedback can be submitted via email to: asds.schoolreview@nbed.nb.ca or you may send a letter to the attention of Robert Fowler, Chair, District Education Council, 490 Woodward Avenue, Saint John, NB E2K 5N3.
Policy 409 – Section 6.5
Determining a School’s Sustainability

6.5.1 A DEC must consider the following criteria when studying a school’s sustainability. This list does not preclude a DEC from considering other factors relevant to their local circumstances.

- 1. **Low/declining enrolments:**
- 2. **Health and Safety:**
- 3. **Quality of Education Programs and Services:**
- 4. **Transportation:**
- 5. **Finances:**
- 6. **Impact on the local community:**
- 7. **Impact on other schools:**
- 8. **Economic development:**
6.6 Public consultation on a school’s sustainability

6.6.1 Following a public meeting at which the DEC has indicated its intention to conduct a sustainability study, the DEC must hold a minimum of three public meetings as part of a school sustainability study.

6.6.2 The first meeting will inform the school community of the DEC’s intention, the criteria and factors to be considered and the steps to be followed. The DEC must ensure that affected persons are provided with information relevant to the proposal.
6.6.3 The **second meeting** will provide affected persons with the opportunity to make a presentation to the DEC (i.e., let their views be known either in writing or orally). The DEC must provide them with adequate time to express their views and ensure they are heard impartially. The DEC must also ensure that affected persons have adequate time to prepare and consider the information received during the first meeting.

6.6.4 The **final meeting** will provide the public with the results of the consultation and the resulting recommendations being submitted to the Minister, as per section 6.7.
6.7.1 A DEC will inform the Minister in writing of a recommendation to close a school, following the public consultation process. The DEC must provide supporting documents that demonstrate to the Minister how the requirements of this policy have been applied.

6.7.2 Any DEC recommendation to close a school as a result of a sustainability study must be submitted to the Minister no later than January 31, if the DEC intends for the school to close during the current school year. An extension of this timeline may be granted to the DEC with approval of the Minister.
Anglophone School District - South

- Quick Facts:
  - ASD-S runs from Sussex Corner to Campobello Island
- Three Education Centres:
  - St. Stephen Ed. Centre (SSEC) – 15 schools
  - Saint John Ed. Centre (SJEC) – 30 schools
  - Hampton Ed. Centre (HEC) – 25 schools
- $244 million budget, 3400 permanent employees
- Major challenges:
  - Fiscal reality
  - Aging infrastructure 47–57 avg. yrs. of age depending on Centre (oldest are in SJEC)
  - Declining enrolment
Anglophone School District - South Historical Enrolment
20% Enrolment Drop in 15 Years (5555 students)


# OF STUDENTS

YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Students</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>24257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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### Morna Heights Elementary School - Historical Enrolment

#### # OF STUDENTS vs YEAR

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<tr>
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<td>120</td>
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Max. Capacity, 145
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<th>K</th>
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<th>3</th>
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<td>Actual:</td>
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<td>2023</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>72</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1) Used K enrolment from 2018 and 2019 (i.e. 12 K’s).
2) Moved all grade levels ahead by one year.
Morna Heights Elementary - Background

- K-5 Elementary school built in 1963
- Max capacity for Morna Heights is 145 students
- Has 6 classrooms, 2 modulars are used for Library and Music
- Modulars were not new when placed at school 22 years old
- 69 students enrolled as of Sept. 2018
- Morna Heights is at 48% capacity as of Sept. 2018
- Enrolment has declined by 49% since 2004 (65 students)
- For French Immersion, if room, students go to Grand Bay Primary then Inglewood, if not to Westfield Elementary
- Morna Heights students go to River Valley for Middle & Saint John area for High School
- Morna Heights has a gym, playground, basketball court, sufficient green space and parking space
- Morna Heights is not wheelchair accessible
- Morna Heights has ongoing Health & Safety issues including air and water quality (no central ventilation and on potable water)
## Morna Heights Elementary - Capital Improvement Projects Required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Exterior – Roof</td>
<td>$262,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Exterior – Windows</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical &amp; Electrical – Heating and Ventilation</td>
<td>220,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Exterior – Brick Repointing</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Interior – Washrooms</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Interior – Floors</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Interior – Interior Accessibility – Lift</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,002,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No Major Capital Improvements projects completed over the last five years.
## Morna Heights Elementary

### STAFFING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FTE’s (Full Time Equivalents)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher FTE’s</td>
<td>6.90*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clerical Staff (1-10 month)</td>
<td>.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custodial (40 hrs. week)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed. Assistants (EA) (5–10 months, 30 hrs. wk.)</td>
<td>4.13</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.89</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* includes Administration
Morna Heights Elementary -
Annual Operating Costs 2018/19:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Light and power</td>
<td>$9,809</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sewage</td>
<td>1,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor repairs</td>
<td>6,009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snow plowing</td>
<td>5,456</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garbage removal</td>
<td>1,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating fuel</td>
<td>18,831</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleaning supplies</td>
<td>1,238</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$44,093</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>School Instructional Budget</td>
<td>7,136</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>786,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Yearly Operating Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$837,229</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Morna Heights Elementary School – School & Community Involvement

- Lunch Program 2–3 times per week
- Breakfast Program daily, sponsored by Superstore
- Intramural Sports (Flag football, badminton etc.) – seasonal
- Movie Nights – 4 times per year
- District Jamboree Participation
- Host for District Jamborees
- Community Enrichment Activities (baking, astronomy, gardening, yoga, photography)
- Monthly Helping Hands Assemblies based on Code of Conduct, citizenship and PBIS
- Christmas Shopping Bazaar
- Skating at the Peter Murray Arena (2–3 times per year)
- Christmas Dinner
- Field Day and Community BBQ
Student Leaders
Green Team
Reading Buddies – older children read to younger students
Grade 5 DARE
Mad Science – yearly
ELF Tutoring
Science and Heritage Fairs
Literacy and Math Family Nights
Morna Heights Elementary – Businesses Located in and/or Supporting the School Community

Derek’s Custom Cabinets
Peter Claessen and Sons Ltd.
Ridgewood Veterans Wing
Seely’s Lodge
Subway – hot lunch provider
Multi-year Infrastructure Planning:

- DEC requested update of proposal for the Grand Bay – Westfield and Morna area that was studied in 2015/16
- Proposal was to close Grand Bay Primary, Inglewood and Morna and build new K-5 School
- Project was on the list 2008/09 then updated in 2015/16
- Project did not garner any interest at Dept. level so it was moved to 3rd on Capital Construction list in 2019
- Morna’s population has dropped 33% since last study
- New proposal is to close Morna, review school boundaries and move students to Saint Rose (K-5 Eng.)
- Grade 6 & 7 students in River Valley will be grandfathered
- Saint Rose has excess capacity 205 students (Sept. 2018) @ 43% capacity
- Distance from Morna Heights to Saint Rose is 9.2 kms
Two busses currently serve Morna, 2 AM routes and 2 PM routes
Have 18 walkers, 6 out of zone, & 46 on buses
Average distance to Morna Heights for bussed students is around 4 kms
Max. bussing distance to Morna is 7 kms
Bussing to Saint Rose will add average of 5 kms, max. of 9 kms to the bus runs, depending on the students’ home address
All Morna area students would be entitled to bussing to Saint Rose
Saint Rose Elementary - Background

- K-5 Elementary school built in 1960
- School is owned by the Diocese
- Max capacity for Saint Rose is 483 students
- 205 students enrolled as of Sept. 2018
- Saint Rose is at 43% capacity as of Sept. 2018
- For French Immersion, students would go to Island View
- Students would go to Barnhill for Middle & Saint John area for High School
- Saint Rose has a gym, playground, basketball court, sufficient green space and parking space and is located near a ballfield and soccer field
- Saint Rose is wheelchair accessible and has a lift
- Saint Rose has no ongoing Health & Safety issues
- Saint Rose has an afterschool program located inside the school
School Programs:
- Hot Lunch three times per week and milk sales daily
- Breakfast Program daily
- Safe Arrival
- Parent Involvement Committee
- PSSC
- Writers In the School Program annually
- Fish Friends – raising fry from eggs for Hammond River release
- STEAM challenges
- Soup program twice per week
- Guidance two days per week
Saint Rose Elementary –
School Programs and Clubs (continued)

- **School Programs (continued):**
  - School wide presenters
  - Soap Box Derby
  - ELF – Early Literacy Friends
  - WOW Writers – monthly celebrations of exceptional writing
  - Monthly themed (around character traits) assemblies

- **Social Programs:**
  - Roots of Empathy
  - Mind Up
  - Zones of Regulation
School Trips:
- Grade five Elmhurst Outdoor trip annually
- Grade 4 PALS train ride
- Hammond River to release Fish Friends fish
- Trips organized by the Parent Involvement Committee (apple picking, Pink Bus tours, sugar bush etc. depending on the year)
Summary of Factors that Determine a School’s Sustainability:

- **Low/declining enrolment**: Morna Heights enrolment has dropped by 49% since 2004, 68 students.
- **Health and Safety**: There have been on-going air quality concerns (i.e. smell in gym) and there is no central ventilation system in the school. Potable water is provided to the school as the well water continues to fail the monthly bacteria test.
- **Quality of Education Programs**: Both schools offer strong education programs. Our experience has been that community partners will follow students when schools are closed.
- **Transportation**: The boundaries of both schools border on each other and can be combined for transportation purposes.
Impact on local community: The enrolment at Morna Heights has continued to decline to the point where nearby schools can absorb the population of the school. Morna is located within the City of Saint John boundary as is Saint Rose Elementary.

Impact on other schools: Morna Heights would be closed and the students moved to Saint Rose Elementary for K–5 and then Barnhill Middle for 6–8. River Valley Middle would see a decrease in their future enrolment because of this change.

Economic development: No impact noted.
Thank You for Attending!

- Next meeting – TBA
- This presentation will be posted to ASD-S website at: http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/
- Written feedback can be submitted:
  - via email to asds.schoolreview@nbed.nb.ca
  - or send a letter to the attention of:
    Robert Fowler, Chair
    District Education Council
    490 Woodward Avenue
    Saint John, NB E2K 5N3